

Application No.: 10/808,518
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) replacement drawing sheet drawings that complies with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The replacement drawing incorporates the following drawing changes:

In Fig. 3, the reference numeral "25" has been amended to --25'--.

It is respectfully requested that the replacement drawing be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 14-16 have been added.

Amendments to the Drawings

Fig. 3 has been amended to place it in better form for U.S. practice.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this drawing.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction in the present application between Group I, claims 1-12, drawn to an igniter assembly, classified in Class 102, subclass 202.9; and Group II, claim 13, drawn to a method of making an igniter, classified in Class 102, subclass 202.14.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, without traverse, the above Group I, claims 1-12.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because of some informalities.

The rejected claims have been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 8-11, 12/8, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Further, claims 8-11, 12/8, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The “such a strength as slightly deforms on receiving injection pressure” limitation recited in claim 8 has been amended to

--the resin in a fused state is injected under pressure into a space between the igniter and the substantially cylindrical metal collar to deform the substantially cylindrical metal collar, such that a tight contact between the substantially cylindrical metal collar and the resin is formed as the fused resin shrinks and the substantially cylindrical metal collar returns to an original shape--

to overcome this rejection.

The foregoing limitation is supported at least by the statements in p. 15, line 12 through p. 16, line 3 and p. 18, line 1 through p. 19, line 15 of the specification.

Applicants believe that the foregoing statements in the specification satisfy the written description and enablement requirements.

In view of this, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8-10, and 12-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Avetisian (USP 6,508,175). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1

Avetisian discloses, in Fig. 1, an initiator 2 including an igniter 8, a retainer 4 that surrounds the igniter 8 and including a flange 4 and a molding feature 24, and a non-conductive

body 6 (corresponds to the “resin” of the claimed invention of the present application) provided between the igniter 8 and the retainer 4.

In Avetisian, however, the entire igniter 8 is buried in the non-conductive body 6. Therefore, in Avetisian, the non-conductive body 6 is not “provided such that at least a part of the igniter is exposed from the resin.” Accordingly, Avetisian does not disclose or suggest the “resin” as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2 and 12, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 4

Avetisian discloses, in Fig. 1, a molding feature 24 (corresponds to the “cylindrical protruding portion” of the claimed invention) extending from an upper portion of a retainer 4. The molding feature 24 defines a notch 26.

In Avetisian, however, the notch 26 is provided at a lower portion of the molding feature 24 and not “at a vicinity of an upper end” of the molding feature 24. Accordingly, Avetisian fails to disclose or suggest the “substantially cylindrical metal collar” as recited in claim 4.

Claims 6 and 12, dependent on claim 4, is allowable at least for their dependency on claim 4.

Claim 8

Claim 8 is allowable at least because Avetisian fails to disclose or suggest injecting the non-conductive body 5 in a fused state “under pressure into a space between the igniter and the

substantially cylindrical metal collar to deform the substantially cylindrical metal collar, such that a tight contact between the substantially cylindrical metal collar and the resin is formed as the fused resin shrinks and the substantially cylindrical metal collar returns to an original shape.” Accordingly, Avetisian does not disclose or suggest the “resin” as recited in claim 8.

Claims 9-10 and 12, variously dependent on claim 8, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 8.

Claim 13

Claim 13, amended in independent claim form, is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with respect to claim 8.

More specifically, none of the cited reference of record discloses or suggests the steps of “charging a resin in a fused state and under pressure into the space, such that the substantially cylindrical metal collar is deformed due to the pressure of the fused resin,” and “cooling the fused resin, such that a tight contact between the substantially cylindrical metal collar and the resin is formed as the fused resin shrinks and the substantially cylindrical metal collar returns to an original shape,” as recited in claim 13.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 3, 7, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avetisian in view of Dietzel et al. (USP 3,960,083). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Claim 3, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 7, dependent on claim 4, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 4.

Claim 11, dependent on claim 8, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 8.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avetisian in view of Fogle, Jr. (USP 5,691,498). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 5, dependent on claim 4, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 4.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

New Claims

New claims 14-16 have been added. Claims 14 and 15 are directed to the elected invention. Claim 16 is directed to the non-elected invention.

Claim 14, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 15, dependent on claim 8, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 8.

Claim 16, dependent on claim 13, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 13.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these new claims is earnestly solicited.

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Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
(reg # 40,417)
Terrell C. Birch
Registration No.: 19,382
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments: One (1) Replacement Drawing Sheet - Fig. 3
Substitute Specification - 14 pages
Comparison Specification - 15 pages